

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10 with the following paragraph.

“The above objects and other related objects are realized by the invention, which provides an electric power tool comprising: a housing; a motor encased in the housing and having an output shaft producing a torque; a spindle provided at a front end of the housing, the spindle receiving the torque and capable of rotation; and an epicycle reduction gear unit provided between the output shaft of the motor and the spindle. The epicycle reduction gear unit in turn includes front and rear internal gears axially arranged and independently rotatable with respect to each other, front and rear carriers, and gear sets each including a front planetary gear having a first diameter and a rear planetary gear having a second diameter different from the first diameter, the front and rear planetary gears being supported on the front carrier so as to revolve on inner peripheral surfaces of the front and rear internal gears, respectively. The electric power tool further comprises a switchover means slidably provided on outer peripheral surfaces of the internal gears and responsive to slide operation of the switchover means performed from outside of the housing for selectively prohibiting rotation of the internal gears relative to the housing. The switchover means is capable of coupling one of the two internal gears to the one of the carriers so as to permit integral rotation of the coupled internal gears with the coupled carriers. Further, the switchover means enables the spindle to rotate at a first speed by prohibiting rotation of one of the internal gears relative to the housing; at a second speed by prohibiting rotation of the other of the internal gears relative to the housing; and at a third speed by simultaneously ~~prohibiting~~ permitting rotation of one of the internal gears relative to the housing and coupling that ~~rotation-prohibited~~ rotation-permitted internal gear to one of the carriers. As described above, according to the electric power tool of the present invention, three-speed transmission is provided simply by prohibiting rotation of one of the internal gears and selectively connecting one of the internal gears with the output shaft or the carrier, instead of achieving such transmission by sliding the internal gears. This reduces the number of components and the assembly steps required as well as the manufacturing costs, while ensuring reliable speed change operation. In particular, the present invention requires only a single-stage gear set including a carrier that supports two-tier planetary gears and two internal gears in order to provide three speeds. This advantageously reduces the number of gear sets compared to the conventional structure, thus effectively simplifying the transmission structure.”